

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

DHA-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 /074 W

----- 078717

R 301846Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0827

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12873

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR, GW, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: FRANCO-GERMAN SOCIALIST MEETING OF JULY 22ND

REF: BONN 11268

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO A GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OFFICIAL, THE FRANCO-GERMAN CONVERSATIONS ON
ALLEGED CIVIL RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT IN THE FRG DID NOT
RESOLVE THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES
BUT AT LEAST ENABLED THEM TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS TO
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EACH OTHER. THE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE IN A CALM

AND SERIOUS ATMOSPHERE. THE GERMANS HOPE THAT THE ISSUE IS DEFUSED FOR THE TIME BEING, THOUGH THEY ARE NOT FULLY CONFIDENT THAT IT IS. END SUMMARY.

1. AN OFFICIAL IN THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) HAS BRIEFED US ON THE MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK BETWEEN THE SPD AND A VISITING FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION INVESTIGATING THE STATE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE FRG. THE SPD OFFICIAL SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-- THE BASIC DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES ON THIS ISSUE HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY RESOLVED ALTHOUGH IT WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT THE TWO PARTIES COULD EXCHANGE THOSE VIEWS IN A COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE.

--THE FRENCH SAID THEY WERE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE INTIMIDATING EFFECT THAT THE GERMAN PROHIBITION ON RADICAL EMPLOYMENT COULD HAVE UPON THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE FRG THAN ABOUT THE FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DENIED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

--THE FRENCH BELIEVE IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL MISTAKE TO TRY TO SOLVE THIS KIND OF ISSUE BY LEGISLATION. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THEY THEMSELVES, LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, SOLVED IT BY INFORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF DENYING CERTAIN POSITIONS TO EXTREMISTS WITHOUT EVER ARTICULATING THIS PROHIBITION IN AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT. IN THE PROCESS OF THIS DISCUSSION, THE FRENCH ADMITTED THAT THEY LAGGED BEHIND GERMANY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF CIVIL RIGHTS, SUCH AS IN UNIONIZATION OF ARMED FORCES.

--THE FRENCH SOCIALIST DELEGATION PROMISED THAT MITTERAND AND HIS PARTY WOULD NOT PRESS THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE PUBLICLY AND WOULD NOT EXPAND THE ACTIVITY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT THEY HAD FORMED TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED CIVIL RIGHTS INFRINGEMENTS IN THE FRG. THE FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO PLAY DOWN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER.

--FOR THEIR PART, THE SPD REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT NOTHING COULD BE CHANGED BEFORE THE ELECTION HERE IN OCTOBER. THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE SPD HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED OVER THE RESULTS OF THE REGULATIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROMULGATED AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF EXTREMISTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THEY HAD HOPED THAT

ISSUING A FEDERAL REGULATION WOULD STANDARDIZE THE PRACTICES IN THE SEVERAL STATES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED, THEY ADMITTED, BECAUSE THE CDU-RULED STATES STILL FOLLOWED DIFFERENT POLICIES FROM THOSE FOLLOWED BY THE SPD-RULED STATES. (IN DISCUSSING THIS, THE SPD OFFICIAL SAID THAT SCHMIDT HAD OPPOSED ISSUING THE REGULATION IN 1972 BUT THAT BRANDT, WHO WAS THEN CHANCELLOR, HAD FAVORED IT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT COMMON PRACTICES.)

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

DHA-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 /074 W
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R 301846Z JUL 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0828

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12873

--LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE' THE SPD SAID THAT IT HOPED AFTER THE ELECTIONS TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS SLIGHTLY SO THAT RADICALS OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT WOULD STILL BE EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN SENIOR AND MIDDLE-LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WHILE BEING PERMITTED TO OBTAIN LESS RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. THE FRENCH APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP.

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--IT WAS ALSO AGREED AT THE MEETING THAT THE LEAGUE OF SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD, AT ITS NEXT MEETING, FOUND A COMMITTEE THAT WOULD PERMANENTLY WATCH THIS PROBLEM FOR ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE GERMANS PARTICULARLY FAVOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMITTEE BECAUSE IT WOULD SHOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN EXCLUDING EXTREMISTS FROM CERTAIN POSITIONS AND IT WOULD, THUS, MAKE THEM LESS VULNERABLE TO THE KIND OF CAMPAIGN THAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THEM.

--THE SPD IS NOT SURE THAT THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS CAN CARRY OUT THEIR PLEDGE TO DEFUSE THIS ISSUE, SINCE-- IN THE GERMAN VIEW--MITTERAND'S DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER ARE LARGELY BASED ON TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, AND IT SEEMS CLEAR TO THE GERMANS THAT THE PCF WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT THIS ISSUE.

2. AFTER THE FRANCO-GERMAN SOCIALIST MEETING, A PRESS COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED WHICH INDICATED THAT THE TWO PARTIES HAD EXCHANGED VIEWS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THE FRENCH DESIRE FOR FURTHER GERMAN EFFORTS AS WELL AS THE FRENCH RECOGNITION OF THE PARTICULAR PROBLEM FACED BY THE FRG IN A DIVIDED COUNTRY. IT ALSO REPORTED THE PLANS FOR THE EC-COUNTRIES SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE (SEE ABOVE).

3. THE GERMAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THE COMMUNIQUE AND THE MEETING, ADDING THAT WILLY BRANDT HAD TOLD THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS THAT THEY SHOULD RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO LET AN "ANTI-GERMAN TONE" ARISE IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. OTHERWISE, THE PRESS GENERALLY REPORTED THAT THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES REMAINED DIFFERENT. DRAWING ON A SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE

MEETING, THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TWO PARTIES TO ESTABLISH THREE WORKING GROUPS
IN THE FALL IN ORDER TO COORDINATE POLICY ON (L)
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, (2) EUROPE, AND (3) THE
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THIRD WORLD.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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